

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FRANKF 05221 281929Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2461
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 5221

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND S/EX DAVID ANDERSON FROM
CONSUL GENERAL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER JIMMY) GW, WB
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - BRIGADE 76 PROGRAM

REF: STATE 163627 PARA 4B; BONN 11634

1. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT IT IS A MATTER OF VERY SIGNIFICANT
AMERICAN REPEAT AMERICAN INTEREST THAT UP TO 1,000 GERMANS
FROM THE WIESBADEN/MAIN/FRANKFURT AREA BE INVITED TO THE
WIESBADEN/ERBENHEIM BASE AT THE TIME THE PRESIDENT AND THE
CHANCELLOR VISIT THE AMERICAN AND GERMAN TROOPS THERE ON JULY
15. THE FACT THAT IN THIS CASE OUR INTEREST COINCIDES WITH
THE FRG'S DESIRES IS NO DOUBT FORTUNATE BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPLY
A COINCIDENCE.

2. WE, ON THE US SIDE HERE, ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE
STEADY DAY-TO-DAY COOPERATION OF GERMAN OFFICIALS, THE GERMAN
MEDIA AS WELL AS THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF THE GERMAN PUBLIC IN
GENERAL. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS ARE WITH
CONCENTRATION OF AMERICAN FORCES AND THE OCCASIONAL INCIDENTS
WHICH INEVITABLY OCCUR IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION. IN THE
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WIESBADEN AREA PARTICULARLY THE CHANGE IN 1976 FROM THE US AIR
FORCE, WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II,
TO THE ARMY POSED A DELICATE AND DIFFICULT PUBLIC RELATIONS
PROBLEM WHICH, DUE TO THE HARD WORK OF QUITE A FEW AMERICANS
AND GERMANS, WAS SUCCESSFULLY DEALT WITH BUT STILL REQUIRES
CONSTANT CARE AND ATTENTION. THIS MAY SEEM LIKE LOW LEVEL
STUFF, BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE REAL PEOPLE ARE AT THE GRASSROOTS

AND WHAT HAPPENS THERE IS IMPRTANT TO OUR LARGER INTERESTS.
WE HAVE A CHANCE HERE TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE OUR AMERICAN
INTERESTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, OR TO QUITE UNNECESSARILY DAMAGE THESE INTERESTS
BY AN ACT OF OMMISION. I REQUEST THAT THE DECISIONS CONVEYED
IN PARA 4B OF REFTTEL BE MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY.LEHMANN

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